



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO JOINTLY DEVELOP A CITY ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVE TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, a recent poll of Hawaii adults found that three-quarters of those polled opined that bullying was either a "major problem" or a "large problem" in Hawaii schools today and 37 percent stated that they had been personally bullied whilst at school; and

WHEREAS, that same poll defined bullying as "unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance," including "making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally and excluding someone from a group on purpose"; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control's ("CDC") 2011 "Youth Risk Behavior Study" indicated that in the state of Hawaii, 41 percent of middle school students reported being the victim of bullying and one out of 15 high school students, approximately two per class, missed at least one day of school out of fear of being bullied; and

WHEREAS, in the state of Hawaii, approximately one in five high school students said that they had been bullied on school property within the last 12 months, while 15 percent of high school students and 24 percent of middle school students reported being cyber-bullied by classmates; and

WHEREAS, the CDC's 2011 survey of Hawaii schools also concluded that our high school students rank the second highest and our middle school students rank the highest in the nation in regards to making a suicide plan as a result, in part, to the bullying inflicted upon them; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the State Legislature passed "The Safe Schools Act," which not only requires monitoring, prompt reporting, and investigation of bullying and harassment in Hawaii schools, but also requires that on-campus training be conducted annually to promote peace and respect, and develop appropriate ways to intervene in bullying or harassment throughout Hawaii's school system; and

WHEREAS, the state of Hawaii Department of Education's ("DOE") website states that the DOE "is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable learning



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atmosphere for students, families and educators" and employs "a host of initiatives to prevent bullying and harassment in [Hawaii's] schools"; and

WHEREAS, the DOE has also implemented programs that include the gathering and analysis of bullying-related data, developing professional staff training focusing on anti-bullying tools, and employing strategies to effectively involve both students and their communities in combating bullying; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation's ("DPR") Summer Fun Program ("Program") is the largest of its kind in the State, serving over 10,000 school age children and teens annually during the months of June and July at over sixty sites island-wide; and

WHEREAS, the Program's curriculum for teens is designed to promote physical, emotional and social well-being and one of its goals is to provide opportunities for teens to participate in recreational activities that bolster their self-esteem and compassionate empathy for others; and

WHEREAS, not only are teens able to attend the Program as enrolled participants, but are also eligible to apply to the Program's Junior Leader program where they will assist adult Summer Aides facilitate Program activities and be responsible for supervising and mentoring Program participants; and

WHEREAS, along with the Program, DPR offers a wealth of community-based recreational activities for children and teens throughout the year, including classes in aquatics, arts and crafts, creative expression and drama, ethnic culture, sports, music and dance, outdoor recreation and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with other governmental entities and organizations, DPR's Children and Youth Unit has developed and provides training for its recreation directors in the field of Bullying Prevention; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Human Resources to jointly develop an Anti-Bullying Initiative to protect children and youth participating in City-administered programs; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a City Anti-Bullying Initiative shall include, at a minimum:

- Mandatory training classes for all Department of Parks and Recreation employees who have direct contact with children and youth to enable such employees to identify a child affected by bullying, develop intervention strategies, monitor the identified problem site and formulate a referral plan for supportive services;
- A data gathering and analysis system focused on bullying; and
- A City protocol to process reports of bullying that includes a referral plan for the identified child in need to supportive services;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its development of a City Anti-Bullying Initiative, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Human Resources shall consult with individuals and organizations with the appropriate expertise, such as Mental Health America of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Human Resources shall submit its joint report on the status of the development of a City Anti-Bullying Initiative to the Council no later than December 1, 2014; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Director of the Department of Human Resources.

INTRODUCED BY:

Don Munn

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUN 23 2014

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers